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IGNORANT CARD IS TRUMP, SAYS PAUL SULLIVAN
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LONDON metro®
Wednesday, April 20, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Putting the Pride in the Forest City

KYLE REA/METRO

▶ Noel A. Scott, host and creator of Forest City Pride TV, picks out some clothing for an upcoming episode at From Mars clothing store in downtown London. Pride TV, set to launch early next month on Rogers local TV, will be the first show in the area to focus on queer issues.

- New show on queer issues to run seven half-hour episodes starting in early May
- Created by Fanshawe broadcast student

KYLE REA
@METRONEWS.CA

It's the first of its kind for London, a show that highlights the city's wide and diverse queer community.

And it's coming to Rogers local television early next month.

It's called Forest City Pride, a show created by graduating Fanshawe broadcast TV student Noel A. Scott who pitched the idea for a program to Rogers TV.

"There are a tonne of community groups that do great things here in London, but the thing I noticed is that even the queer community doesn't know these groups exist," he said.

Scott said they'll have episodes focusing on youth and homophobia, but there'll be plenty of everything during the show's run.

The show is to air during the first week of May, but Scott isn't exactly sure which date and what timeslot — he's waiting to hear back from Rogers.

Scott said feedback about the show has already been positive.

"What a lot of people don't realize is that there is a large gay community here that has a lot to offer," he said. "We're here, we're queer and we've been here for a long time."

> **"I think it's about time that the queer community in London gets its moment in the spotlight."**
> NOEL A. SCOTT,
> CREATOR OF FOREST CITY PRIDE TV SHOW

Queer TV

- The premiere date for Forest City Pride is to be announced 9 p.m. Thursday during a gala party for the show at Lavish Nightclub, 238 Dundas St.
- Scott co-hosts the show with Lavender Menace, a local LGBT volunteer and member of the Pride London board of directors.

1 news

It may surprise you that Japan must reach out to U.S. for robot help in its nuclear disaster. Scan code for story.

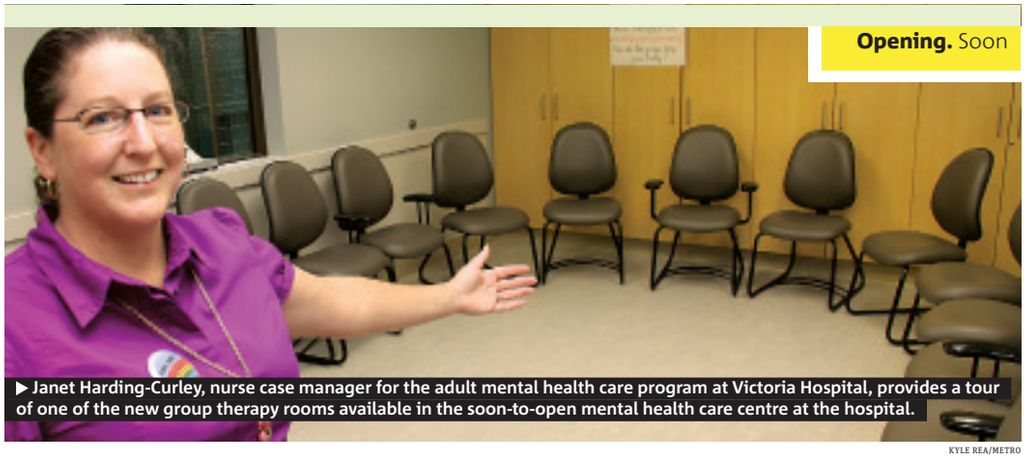
1 Download the free ScanLife app with your smartphone at 2dscan.com

2 Use your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro

3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to m.metronews.ca

On the web at metronews.ca

Go hands-on with RIM's PlayBook and see how it stacks up against Apple's iPad 2. Video at metronews.ca



Opening. Soon

▶ Janet Harding-Curley, nurse case manager for the adult mental health care program at Victoria Hospital, provides a tour of one of the new group therapy rooms available in the soon-to-open mental health care centre at the hospital.

KYLE REA/METRO

Making room for mental health care

Mental health facilities, formerly at South Street Hospital, are to be moved to Victoria Hospital by April 29. The new unit has 90 adult and child beds as well as facilities for psychiatrists and out-patient programs. There will be no mental health care services provided at South Street Hospital as of April 28.

Pot celebration no vacation from law

Marijuana users around the world recognize April 20 as the date to celebrate cannabis culture ◐ 4:20 p.m. is the traditional meeting time ◐ Police usually have a presence at rallies but rarely make arrests

JIM REYNO
@METRONEWS.CA

Heads up, pot heads: 420 isn't a freebie, police say.

"April 20 is, amongst the culture of marijuana users, a day where you can light up and smoke marijuana and it's believed it's a free day to smoke," said Const. Dennis Rivest, public information officer for the London police.

"The Controlled Drugs & Substances Act is in effect 365 days a year. And it doesn't take a holiday on April 20."

Last year, more than 2,000 marijuana enthusiasts gathered in Victoria Park on April 20. There was a police presence then, and there will be a police presence this year.

"We will be out," Rivest said. "We will be looking."

But if you think police are more concerned with big blunts than little doobs, don't hold your breath.

"Some people believe that if they only have a little bit of marijuana, they won't be charged, or they can't be charged," said Rivest. "You can be charged with possession of marijuana with any amount, any quantity."

And that's serious. Check out this from the police news release:

"A conviction for a criminal offence, including those under the Control Drugs & Substances Act, will result in a permanent criminal record which could impact future travel or employment as it could be revealed through a criminal record background check."

Passing on blunt info for 420

So what's the plan for today's 420 rally in Victoria Park? Can we get a copy of an itinerary we can print?

"I don't even know if there's anything going down at Victoria Park really, technically," said an employee at one of London's hemp shops. "Usually there is, but I don't want to say anything for sure, right? Just because I wouldn't want to spoil a whole bunch of pot heads' day."

Although there are many versions of the story behind 420, the employee said the theme is universal.

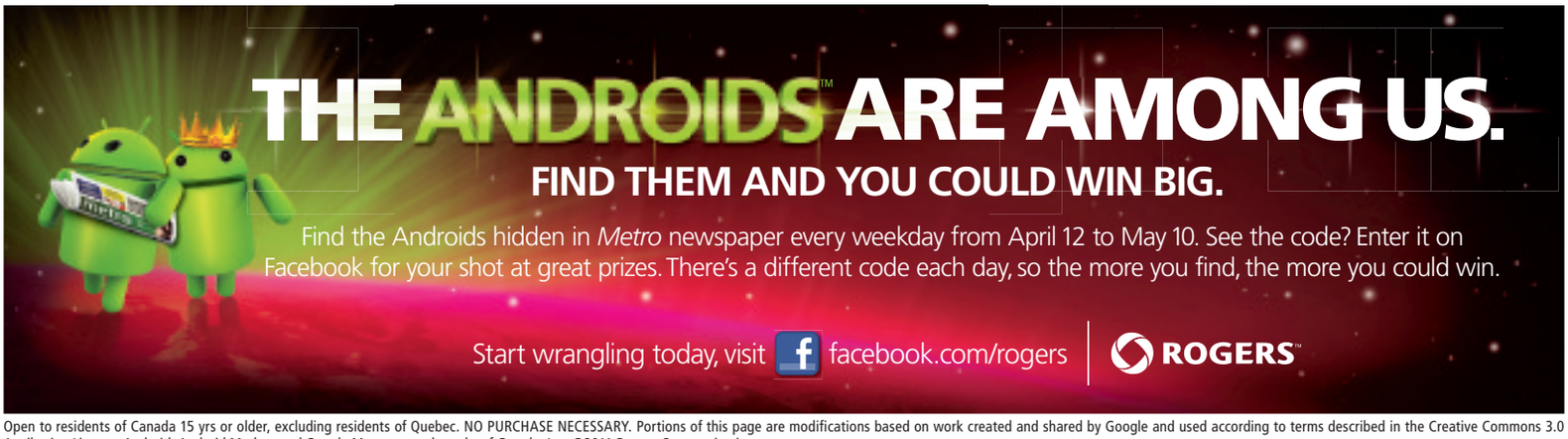
"Basically, it's just a day where people have an excuse to get together," he said. "Just have fun, relax and mellow out, smoke some doobs and play hacky-sack in the park. Hopefully, there's sunshine."

But the employee knows it will be business as usual for London police.

"It's not a break from the marijuana laws in Canada, but nobody's hurting anybody," he said. "If the police just don't show up at the park, I'm sure no one's going to get hurt at the end of the day."

JIM REYNO

"I'd hate to be that guy who blew 420 for everyone. The more information is published ... the less people are going to be able to get away with what they want to do." HEMP SHOP EMPLOYEE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Eateries asked to WIPE up their ways

Dozens of local restaurants, groups sign on to city program to cut down on food in wastewater ◗ Violators won't be fined

KYLE REA/METRO

▶ Chris Roberts, cooks helper at the Men's Mission in London, scrapes food waste into the garbage instead of sending it down the drain.

KYLE REA
@METRONEWS.CA

The sink isn't a garbage can, but every year food waste flushed down the sink costs the City of London hundreds of thousands of dollars.

To save cash, and the environment, London yesterday launched a new program called Washing Initiative to Protect Our Environment (WIPE).

A joint project between the city, local restaurants and other organizations, WIPE encourages them to install food and grease traps and think before they put items down the sink instead of into the garbage.

The program uses a carrot rather than a stick approach — using education rather than fines, said Mayor Joe Fontana.

"The city saves a lot of money, restaurants are going to save a lot of money, but, more importantly, we're going to be saving the environment," he said. "It's not just about restaurants. (Everyone) can participate in the program."

Nick Javor, senior vice-president of Tim Hortons, said he's proud to be a part of the WIPE program.

"This is something all restaurateurs have to be a part of," he said.

The greasy truth

London spends $600,000 annually to flush sewers and get rid of blockages.

- **Forty per cent** of blockages are caused by fat, oil and grease dumped down the drain.
- **The average restaurant** could dispose of up to 1 kg of waste down the drain each day. With more than 2,500 locations in London, that means more than 1,000 tonnes of food waste each year.

Builders entice would-be homebuyers

The London Home Builders' Association has launched a savings program to assist new homebuyers with putting the finishing touches on their houses.

The Ultimate New Home Housewarming Gift includes savings from local retailers and service providers that could top $7,000.

The Ultimate New Home Housewarming Gift is available to buyers once they complete an offer to purchase for the construction of a new home or a purchase of a new inventory home with an LHBA builder until Dec. 31, 2011.

Visit lhba.on.ca. METRO

JAPAN QUAKE'S RIPPLE EFFECT

Plants to keep slow pace till June

Parts shortages are forcing Toyota to extend production cuts that started this week at its Canadian and U.S. factories into early June.

Japan's earthquake and tsunami have caused havoc for Japanese manufacturers.

North American production will be suspended on Mondays and Fridays from April 26 to June 3. Midweek, the plants will run at half capacity.

Canadian production will be suspended the week of May 23, but workers will report to work and use the time for training to improve the factories.

Toyota's Woodstock and Cambridge plants employ a combined 6,500 people.

AM980/AM980.CA

Cost of keeping lights on to rise

Electricity rates will jump slightly on May 1, but there will be an extra two hours of the lowest off-peak rate each weeknight.

The Ontario Energy Board sets electricity rates twice yearly for homes and small businesses on time-of-use pricing and those paying flat rates depending on amount used.

0.4 Rates for people not on time-of-use are up 0.4 cents to 6.8 cents for the first 600 kilowatt hours each month.

Rates will go up by 0.8 cents a kilowatt hour for all time periods starting May 1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gun charges for standoff artist

A 30-year-old Perth County man has been charged after a nearly 24-hour-long police standoff.

Martin Ball has been charged with careless use of a firearm, among other charges.

AM980/AM980.CA

Child porn bust nets local man

A London man is facing seven charges in connection with a child-pornography bust.

The police executed a search warrant at a home and arrested 54-year-old Tim Whittal.

AM980/AM980.CA

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Dial M for misbehaving

- Liberal candidate says pranksters calling constituents
- Doesn't believe Greens or NDP are behind phone calls

JAMES TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

Election 2011

A former MP battling to regain his seat in a hotly contested Winnipeg riding says unknown imposters are calling voters on behalf of the party and being rude in order to turn them off voting Liberal in the upcoming federal election.

Liberal Candidate Ray Simard said yesterday he was out door-knocking in the St. Boniface riding Monday afternoon and was told by constituents they had been contacted by someone representing the Liberals and were treated poorly.

Simard said similar calls have been happening to Liberal candidates in at least eight other Canadian ridings.

He suggested the calls may be orchestrated by the Conservatives, but admitted he had no proof.

"It's part of the way these guys do business," he told Metro.

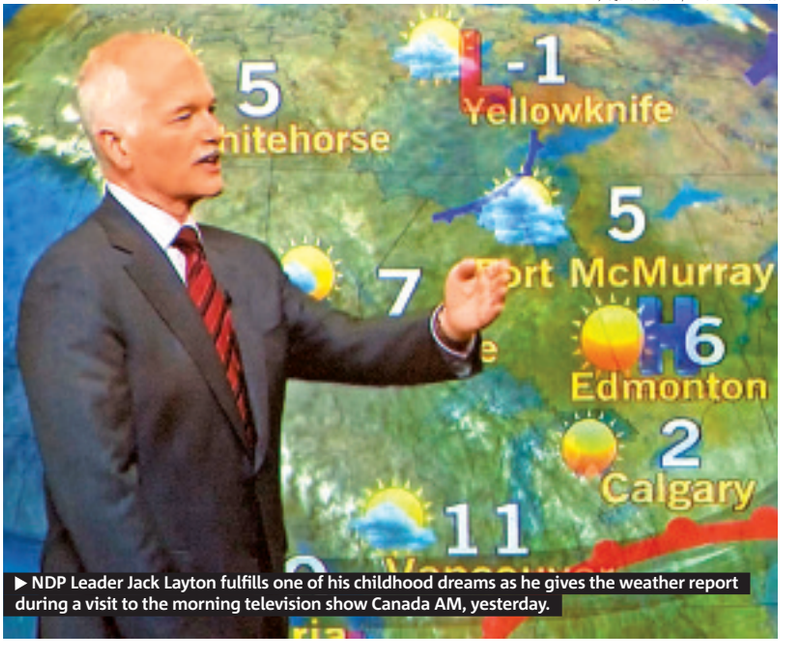
A spokesperson for Conservative MP in the riding Shelly Glover called Simard's comments "unfortunate," and denied Glover's camp had any involvement.

Campaign sabotage

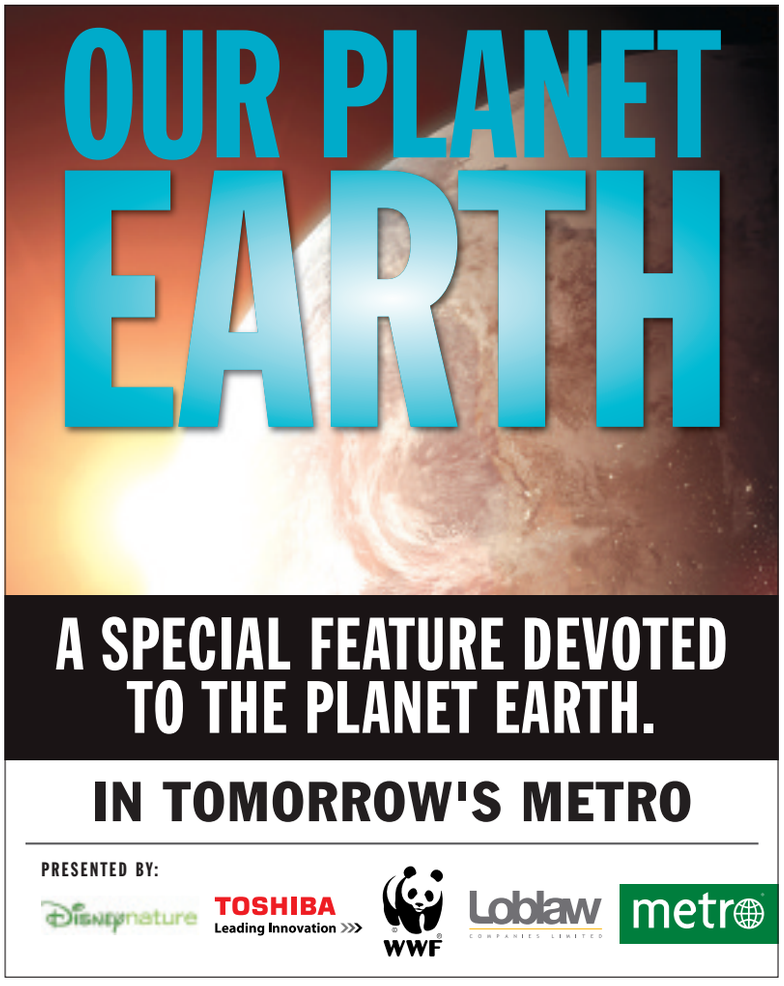
It's not just attack ads that are getting nastier as election day nears — so are the shenanigans.

- A Liberal campaign worker in Brampton, Ont., is charged with pilfering Conservative signs.
- Candidates in Manitoba and Ontario complain voters are receiving harassing late-night phone calls from imposters.
- Liberal candidate in Ontario loses $2,000 worth of signs after bull's-eyes are painted over his head.

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ NDP Leader Jack Layton fulfills one of his childhood dreams as he gives the weather report during a visit to the morning television show Canada AM, yesterday.



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Inflation spike, interest hike?

Everything cost more last month If it's a trend, not a fluke, look for interest rates to follow suit

Canada's annual inflation rate, which had been bucking global trends, leaped to 3.3 per cent, with both the yearly reading and last month's measure rising by 1.1 points.

It was the biggest single-month jump in inflation since the eve of the 2008 recession, and was well above the consensus call for a 0.6 per cent gain.

The Bank of Canada's mandate is to keep inflation within a range of one to three per cent and as close as possible to two per cent. Last month's spike sharply increases prospects that consumers will see higher interest rates in the near future.

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 34.5 (13,736.83)	+ 0.84¢ (104.55¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas**
+ $1.03 US ($108.15 US)	1,000 cu ft $4.262 US (+ 12.4¢ US)
	Gold contracts $1,495.10 US (+ $2.20 US)

The price of commodities, especially oil, was a big part of the inflation surge, but almost everything was costlier compared to February and last year.

Statistics Canada said all eight of the major components it tracks were up, including food, which was 3.3 per cent higher than last year.

The only good news for the central bank is that core inflation, which excludes volatile items such as gasoline, remained well anchored at 1.7 per cent.

The bank gets one more look at inflation before it has to decide about interest rates on May 31. A lot will depend on whether prices, particularly the core that points to future inflation, breaches the two per cent target. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Tech watchers had predicted lineups for the PlayBook would be short, as they were yesterday in Toronto, partly because pre-orders could be booked online.

All quiet on the PlayBook front

There were no jostling crowds of tech-hungry geeks lining up for the launch today of the PlayBook tablet by BlackBerry maker Research in Motion — a stark contrast with the launch of rival Apple's iPad 2 last month.

But experts caution that comparing the two devices is like comparing apples to blackberries — the iPad is beloved by consumers, while the PlayBook is aimed at businesses.

The lack of hoopla surrounding the PlayBook debut seemed irrelevant to Ian Chan, who was first in line at 6 a.m. outside a Best Buy store in Toronto for the 7 a.m. launch.

Chan said he thought the PlayBook was worth lining up for because it is smaller than the iPad, which makes it easier to travel with.

At the flagship Sears Canada store in downtown Toronto, James Tetreault, divisional merchandise manager of electronics, said the store presold more than 150 units, which he considered successful for a new technology product. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

HAIR-BRAINED CAMPAIGN

It's not hard to make me crazy. All you have to do is promote one of the following Big Lies:

The Holocaust never happened. It's just a way for Israel to justify its existence ... 9-11 was an inside job ... The world is only 6,000 years old and dinosaurs walked claw in hand with Fred Flintstone ... The moon landing never happened. It was filmed on a Hollywood back lot ... Global warming is a hoax perpetrated by scientists who don't want to lose their grants ... Barack Obama wasn't really born in the U.S. He's not an American citizen, so he's not eligible to be president.

To the people reading this column who believe any or all of the above, I have a bridge you might want to buy. It spans some unbelievably cheap land in Florida that is also for sale.

To Donald Trump, who is playing the "Obama is not an American" card to launch his U.S. presidential bid, I say shame on you. I didn't think you could sink much lower than Celebrity Apprentice, but apparently you're just getting warmed up.

So what if every credible news organization has verified that Obama was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on Aug. 4, 1961. The "birther" conspiracy theorists, a group entirely composed of rednecks from south of the Mason-Dixon Line (and opportunistic Republicans like the Donald) refuse to believe it.

They believe Obama was born in Kenya. Or held dual citizenship — British/Indonesian/Kenyan — whatever.

This even though Obama has produced a birth certificate from a Honolulu hospital, legal in every aspect, documenting his birth. Pshaw, say the birthers. If he was really born in Hawaii, he would be able to produce the long form — by implication, the real thing that can't be forged. But there was no long form in Hawaii. Obama's certificate is the only form, and it goes with a long string of other evidence: For example, birth notices in the local papers from the Hawaii Department of Health.

None of this cuts the mustard with the Donald, who has decided Obama needs to be fired.

And while mainstream Republicans are slowly backing away from Trump and his ridiculous allegations, the latest poll has him No. 2 among Republican hopefuls, below Mitt Romney, but above Mike Huckabee and Sarah Palin.

And he's on a roll, endorsed by Celebrity Apprentice contestant Gary Busey, who obviously doesn't care the boss is pandering to a blatant lie perpetrated by a bunch of racists who will do anything to get that black guy out of the Oval Office.

Ignorance is alive and well and living on cable.

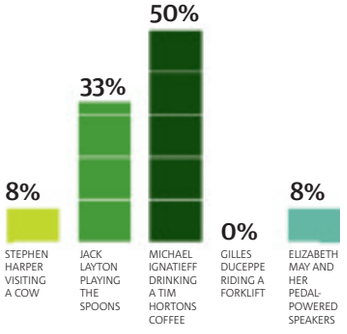
And it has a really bad comb-over.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

metro life panel

Register at metrolifepanel.ca and take the quick poll

Who has made use of the best campaign prop in the election so far?



Local tweets

- **@webAssistca:** We're giving away 2 tickets to the London Technology Showcase this thursday! See our FB page for more info. http://assi.st/e24GqC #ldnont
- **@socialautocdn:** Good morning #ldnont! Thanks goes out to @wakeupsocial for helping me to push past 666 followers. ;) Nasty number.
- **@aalexa129:** you know you should be sleeping when your friends in india are on gmail chat. #uwo #exams
- **@PrideWestern:** Congratulations to this year's Pride Parade Grand Marshal's #uwo's own Professor James Miller and Mayor Joe Fontana!! #ldnpride
- **@kanadakrazee:** Dear London, Ontario ... please warm up, PLEASE?
- **@Igniter:** My Open Letter to the residents of #LDNwest http://t.co/1STIvCv #LDNont #elxn41 !ML1011
- **@nataliese:** hey #ldnont: Help Save Meadowlily Woods! http://bit.ly/f0pCjP Public Participation Mtg, April 20 at 7pm City Hall

Worth mentioning

VIENNA, Austria. Austrian Wildlife authorities are hopping mad that efforts to save the local frog population are being hampered by Italian poachers.

Officials in the Austrian province of Carinthia said yesterday poachers are collecting frogs from the roadside buckets they have been guided into to save them from busy highways, and are then smuggling them home to Italian dinner tables.

Frogs' legs are a delicacy in some parts of Italy. Officials told Austrian state television yesterday that the victims tend to be those with the meatiest thighs.

Frogs attempting to cross some Austrian highways are channelled by a series of fences into roadside buckets. Once a day, volunteers collect the buckets and carry the amphibians to the other side of the road and set them free. But "the Italians strike before the frog pickers come," said Carinthian environmental official Bernhard Gutleb.

Nearly one-third of the world's 6,485 frog species are on the brink of extinction, according to Save The Frogs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael De Adder

WEIRD NEWS

Their families must be so proud of them

The U.S. sheriff known for dressing inmates in pink underwear and feeding them green baloney is inviting people to choose the most popular jail booking photos posted on his website.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio allows online users to browse through the photos and then vote on their favourites that will be highlighted on a "Mugshot of the Day" section.

▶ Infamous mug: Nick Nolte in 2002.

The top picks so far aren't unexpected: They are the most dishevelled, unusual looking people among those booked into an Arizona jail.

Arpaio says he hopes the increased web traffic will highlight the work of his employees.

He also says more crimes may be uncovered if the public can view the photos.

The website is www.mcso.org.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Translating success

Jessie J recorded 600 songs for debut CD Talks about school with Adele, writing songs for Miley Cyrus

Jessie J spent the last seven years crafting songs for her debut CD. And in that time she came up with a whopping 600 tracks.

"(It) isn't that many 'cause it's less than 100 a year," she said. "(There are) the bad ones that no one will ever hear ... (but) I was young and the thing is, you have to write the bad ones to kind of know when something is good."

Luckily, the 23-year-old found 13 songs good enough to make it on her first album.

Price Tag, which features rapper B.o.B, hit the Top 40 on the Billboard chart last week.

B.o.B is the only artist on your debut. Why him?

If I was a male rapper — which obviously I'm not — (but) if I was, I think I'd be like him, and maybe (be) called like J.o.B. ... I remember he got played the song, he loved it and I did like five plane journeys in like four days and chased him around the U.S. to make sure I was there (for the recording), so it was an experience.

So you went to high school with Adele — how was that?

She was in music and I was in musical theatre. ... We used to jam at lunch time and someone would play guitar and we both would just sing. ... At the time we both didn't know we'd have, like, albums out at the same time. And she's killing it. I'm so proud of her. ... (At school) she was very kind of loud and everyone knew her and she was the girl everyone loved and up for a laugh and you could hear her laugh from a mile down the corridor.

Talk about writing Miley Cyrus' Party In the USA.

That was my first week of writing after I signed to (Universal) Republic (Records), so it was like the first big kind of writing session for my debut album ... and it was one of the first songs we did. And I remember thinking this song is amazing, but I don't know if it's me 110 per cent, you know. You can kind of feel it. It was cool but it wasn't edgy enough.

It was a big deal for Miley though.

There are so many friends of mine that would say, 'I would never, ever, ever listen to Miley Cyrus, like, as Hannah Montana' and it kind of brought her over to another style.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"You have to write the bad ones to ... know when something is good."
JESSIE J

JEFF CHRISTENSEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

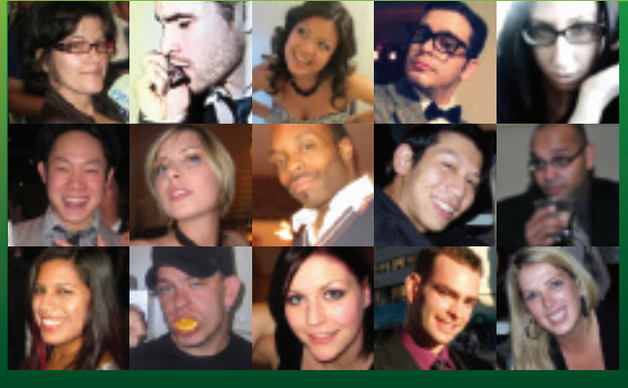
▶ Recording artist Jessie J, who won Critics' Choice at this year's Brit Awards, is hoping to find similar success in North America.

2 scene

Making music

Jeff Bridges is working on a new album that will be his major-label debut. The Oscar-winning actor has signed with EMI's Blue Note Records and is working with his Crazy Heart collaborator T Bone Burnett on an album that will include original material and the work of other songwriters.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MTV plans inaugural O Music Awards in Las Vegas to honour digital music and fans



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Lohan still has job offers

- Producer calls troubled star a 'great, great actress'
- Wants her for two projects

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES FILE
▶ Lindsay Lohan

While the results of her upcoming felony grand theft trial are uncertain, Lindsay Lohan at least can take solace in the fact that she can still get work. Film producer Mark Fiore tells Radar Online that he's interested in the troubled actress for not one but two upcoming projects. "I want Lindsay to be in Gotti and another movie that I'm producing," says Fiore, who serves as executive producer for Gotti: Three Generations.

"She's been very professional with me," he says. "People make mistakes. Look at so many other people in Hollywood." METRO

▶ Halle Berry
CALLING ALL MONSTERS!
Metro and Lady Gaga have teamed up for a Special Edition Metro Life Panel survey and she wants answers from YOU!
Survey will be emailed to panelists the week of April 25.
Results will be published on May 17 in the Lady Gaga Edition of Metro!
REGISTER TODAY AT METROLIFEPANEL.CA
metro life panel

▶ Evan Rachel Wood

Evan Rachel Wood: Into androgyny

Evan Rachel Wood is bisexual, she reveals to Esquire magazine. "I grew up in love with David Bowie. So I was always into very androgynous things. Guys, girls ... I'm into androgyny in general," the 23-year-old actress says, adding that she behaves differently on a date depending on the other person. "I'm more kind of like the guy when it comes to girls. I'm the dominant one ... I'm opening the doors, I'm buying dinner. Yeah, I'm romantic." METRO

▶ Kate Hudson

Hudson is a mystical mama

Kate Hudson doesn't know the gender of her new baby, but she's got a good idea, thanks to a "witchy" technique called the pendulum test. "You take a piece of your hair, and you take a ring ... and you string it through. And then what you do is you hold it over your stomach," she explains to Entertainment Tonight. "[If it moves in] a circle, it's a girl, and a boy [the pendulum] goes back and forth." She says she's done the test a few times, and the ring always indicates a girl. METRO

#ELXN41 LEADERS ON CITY ISSUES THAT MATTER

NEWS CANADA

Chocolate Bunnies

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

Chocolate Bunnies are a staple Easter treat. Although there are many variations, these ones are perfect for child participation.

To get your kids involved, let them measure out the ingredients at the beginning of the process.

They can also try using cookie cutters to shape the bunny heads and bodies. Lastly, the little ones can take part in the final fun step: decorating the finished product.

Use icing to make the mouth and tail, and attach small candies for the eyes.

To display bunnies, arrange them on a tray along with the extra candies. You can also pack the bunnies in clear gift bags tied with ribbon and deliver them to friends and family.

Preparation:

1. In saucepan melt chocolate morsels and butter over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir until melted. Remove from heat.
2. Add cereal and stir until well coated.
3. Using buttered spatula evenly press mixture into 15 x 10 x 1–inch (38 x 25 x 2.5 cm) baking sheet coated with cooking spray. Cool completely.
4. Using large circle cookie cutter, small circle cookie cutter and rabbit head cookie cutter coated with cooking spray, cut cereal mixture into shapes.
5. For each rabbit, attach one rabbit head shape to top of large circle shape with frosting. Attach one small circle for tail to each. Decorate with frosting and/or candies.

NEWS CANADA/ RICEKRISPIES.CA

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (250mL) semi–sweet chocolate morsels
- 3 tbsp (45mL) butter or margarine
- 1 pkg (10 oz) marshmallows, about 40 or 4 cups (1 L) mini marshmallows
- 6 cups (1.5 L) rice crisp cereal
- Frosting or decorating gel
- Assorted candies

This Easter, satisfy every sweet tooth

One of these recipes is more traditional, while the other uses some innovative thinking in the kitchen

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ STEPHEN HAMILTON

▶ This recipe makes four Apple Pocket Pies.

This Easter, think outside the pie plate and celebrate the holiday with the trendiest innovation in pie-baking in decades.

Pocket pies are tasty, colourful and easy as pie to make. These miniature homemade treats are sure to delight all ages.

Apple Pocket Pies

Ingredients:

- 2 frozen deep dish pie shells
- 250 ml (1 cup) peeled and finely chopped Granny Smith apples
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) brown sugar
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ground cinnamon
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) all-purpose flour
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) milk

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 200 C (400 F). Remove pie shells from freezer and let thaw at room temperature for 10 to 15 minutes.
2. In a bowl, combine apples, sugar, cinnamon and flour. Set aside.
3. Remove pie shells from foil onto a clean, flat, lightly floured surface. If cracks appear in the pastry, press together and repair using fingers moistened with water.
4. Using an oval egg-shaped cookie cutter that's 7 by 10 cm (2 3/4 by 4 inches), cut out 6 egg shapes from each pie shell. Set aside any leftover dough.
5. Divide filling mixture evenly among 6 cutouts, mounding in centre and leaving a 5-mm (1/4-inch) border. Top with remaining cutouts. Gently press edges together and crimp with a fork.
6. Brush tops lightly with milk and bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until pastry is golden.

Decorating tips: Use any leftover dough to cut shapes to decorate top. Brush with milk or egg wash to affix to pie and bake as directed above. Decorate pies with multi-coloured sprinkles by brushing top with milk or egg wash, adding sprinkles and bake.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ TENDERFLAKE.COM

3 life

Egg History

Did you know that since ancient days, the egg has been the symbol of new life? Even before it became entwined with the Christian Easter, eggs were used by Romans, Chinese, and Egyptians in rite–of–spring festivals as a way to celebrate the dawn of a new season. NEWS CANADA

There are many ways to decorate eggs. Here's some simple ideas to kick it up a notch.

Opinion **AMANDA GRANT**

YOUTH ARE TUNING IN

Last Tuesday night, I sat in a classroom on Western's campus surrounded by my peers — students of the university gathering together to watch the 2011 leaders' debate. Liberal, Conservative, New Democrat and Green party supporters sat together, some asking basic questions about the electoral system and others debating economic policy.

Across the country, Canadians aged 18 to 25 were also tuned in, streaming the debate live online, reading blogs, tweeting and just plain old watching TV as democracy unfolded.

Unfortunately, many of the issues that concern the 18-to-25 set are overlooked during election campaigns. Issues like gay rights, affordable housing, arts and youth unemployment are dealt with under the radar. Education, an important component of many young people's lives, is mentioned infrequently, most parties failing to address the rising costs of post-secondary education in their platforms.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff has briefly mentioned the party's Learning Passport. This policy — which addresses rising tuition costs and plans to provide $1,000 annually to students enrolled in a post-secondary program through an RESP, and more to students from lower-income families — has been publicized mostly in response to the growing pressure from youth on the campaign trail.

The New Democrats are appealing to students in a different way. They're pledging to cap credit-card fees, an issue many young people face. But when it comes down to it, the NDP platform favours the old over the young.

The Green party's platform is more vague. The party says it supports strong schools and arts and culture, but fails to explain how. Still, many youth identify with the party's strong environmental policy, which focuses on the reduction of greenhouse gases in cities.

Comparatively, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government has created scholarships and bursaries tax-free for students, and made student loans, for both full-time and part-time students, interest-free.

Some 18-to-25-year-old Canadians will look into these platforms, others will rely on the media to give them their news and some will get the information through friends. Either way, young people know the 2011 election is a game-changer for Canada.

Students and youth are becoming more involved and across the country are banding together in vote mobs. Through Facebook and Twitter, young people are organizing themselves, not for a particular party and not for personal gain, but to stand up and take pride in our democratic right as Canadians to vote.

Youth are making statements to parties and leaders: We are here, we have a voice and this time around we're going to use it. On April 30, London will have its chance to make a statement on a national platform: A vote mob in Victoria Park.

Amanda Grant completed her masters of journalism and her undergraduate degree in media, information and technoculture and political science at the University of Western Ontario. She grew up in Toronto and volunteered with the Liberal campaign for a number of years in the Parkdale-High Park riding. She now considers herself non-partisan and is an advocate for youth involvement in politics.

YOU ASKED,

Metro readers submitted questions for the five parties Here's what they had to say ...

Tomorrow at 2 p.m., join us for a live chat as our crack urban affairs team responds to the parties' answers — what's working, what isn't and what's missing from the federal agenda. Speak up at metronews.ca and on Twitter using #elxn41urban."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Stephen Harper

CONSERVATIVES

1 **Many immigrants to Canada are encouraged and allowed to move here based on their professional experience or credentials, only to discover once they arrive that their credentials are not recognized. What role should the federal government play in addressing this problem?**

In 2009, we invested $50 million over two years ... to streamline the recognition process in a number of important occupations and made it easier for foreign-trained Canadians to use their skills and expertise in Canada. But some foreign-trained workers still have difficulty paying for ... the foreign credential recognition process. A re-elected Stephen Harper Government will provide bridge loans to help recent immigrants pay for the training and skills upgrading needed for their foreign credentials to be recognized.

2 **Other G8 countries have national transit strategies, but in Canada federal investments in public transit tend to be ad hoc, which many big-city mayors have argued leads to worse planning and less efficient spending. Does Canada need a national transit strategy, and if so, what should it look like?**

In the past two years alone, we have worked with municipal and provincial partners to undertake more than 28,500 projects, many transit-related from coast-to-coast. A re-elected Stephen Harper Government will continue to support Canadian communities according to their unique needs. We introduced the transit tax credit to encourage Canadians to take public transit, reducing traffic in major city centres.

3 **According to Statistics Canada, the crime rate has been declining since the early 1990s, yet concern about crime in urban areas seems to be on the rise. How do you reconcile this discrepancy?**

We have passed a number of pieces of legislation to protect the vulnerable and to hold criminals accountable. We have also invested in youth gang prevention and other initiatives to encourage Canadians to stay clear of criminal activities. A re-elected Conservative government will build on our strong record by enacting legislation to end the sentence discount for child pornography and child sex offenders and toughening penalties for elder abuse.

4 **According to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, only $8 of every $100 Canadians spend on taxes goes to cities, yet cities are struggling to pay for infrastructure, policing, housing and many of the government services city residents actually interact with most on a day-to-day basis. What changes are required to ensure cities are sufficiently funded?**

In 2008, Stephen Harper's Conservative government permanently doubled the gas tax fund. This major step forward for municipalities is providing a stable and predictable source of revenue for the renewal of local infrastructure. A re-elected Conservative Government will introduce legislation to confirm this permanent funding for municipal infrastructure through the gas tax fund.

5 **A century ago only 20 per cent of Canadians lived in urban areas. That number has now increased to 80 per cent (or more than 25 million Canadians). What is your party's vision for the role of cities within the Canadian federation, now and into the future?**

Cities are vitally important to Canada's economic success. Our government understands that. A re-elected Stephen Harper Conservative government will continue to work effectively with all levels of government to deliver historic investments in local infrastructure, including better highways, roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems, housing college and university facilities, public transit, and green energy.

THEY ANSWERED

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Michael Ignatieff

LIBERALS

The federal government must do a better job screening and advising prospective immigrants on credential recognition before they leave their countries of origin. Improving credential recognition and the integration of new Canadians into the workforce requires a renewed effort between governments, professional groups, educational institutions, sector councils and unions. We will provide leadership and make this a priority.

A Liberal government will work with other levels of government and the private sector to put in place a Canadian transportation and infrastructure strategy. Liberal infrastructure priorities will include local and regional transit, rapid transit, and commuter rail that helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as high-speed rail in regions where rapid, convenient connections between major urban centres promise environmental benefits, enhanced mobility, and decreased congestion.

Crime is always a serious problem. We need evidence-based crime policies that are tough on crime where we need tougher sentences, but also strong on crime prevention. What we don't need is to import failed crime policies from the United States. If we want to be tough on crime, we must be tough on guns. The gun registry is supported by Canada's police force as well as countless organizations in women's health and safety because it improves public safety.

We will maintain the successful gas tax transfer to municipalities and provide additional funds. A lack of affordable housing in large cities is a growing barrier to young families of modest incomes looking for their first home. We will increase the federal investment in affordable housing by $550 million, and work with cities to put in place a renewed affordable housing framework to reduce homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing.

We view the cities as equal partners. The previous Liberal government made the most important contribution to municipal public finance in a generation through its 2005 New Deal for Cities and Communities. A new Liberal government will build on that progress. We will be a strong federal partner, working with our cities on the next generation of transit infrastructure and affordable housing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Jack Layton

NDP

A New Democrat government would take a leadership role to move toward a fair, efficient, transparent and accountable immigration system. In conjunction with provinces and licensing authorities, we will accelerate and streamline the recognition of foreign credentials, overseas degrees, and previous employment experience. To assist with community integration and English and French language programs, we will reinstate federal funding for the settlement programs for new Canadians.

Yes. Because Canada is the only OECD country that does not have a national public transit strategy. New Democrats tabled the National Public Transit Strategy Act, which outlines a practical plan for providing sustainable, predictable, public transit investments. New Democrats have also promised to allocate an additional cent of the existing gas tax to public transit funding for municipalities and to encourage transit use by providing a tax exemption for employee workplace-based transit passes.

To improve public safety on the streets of our communities ... New Democrats will provide stable, permanent funding to put at least 2,500 new police officers on the streets and increase federal support for crime prevention initiatives from $65 million to $100 million per year. We will give parents, teachers and police more tools to protect our children by making gang recruitment illegal and create new, standalone offences for home invasions and car-jackings.

In addition to increased funding for public transit, New Democrats will continue current federal infrastructure funding commitments and invest in community-controlled renewable energy development. In addition to restoring the affordable housing programs the Harper government allowed to expire, we will fund 100,000 new child-care spaces and provide around $1 billion a year for new affordable housing.

Canada's cities must be regarded as important resources in Canada's future economy. Jack Layton is determined to increase investment in cities, including an extra cent of the gas tax – $500 million a year – for public transit. He understands the important role these communities play in our country's overall economy and is committed to seeing there is a place at the negotiating table for cities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Elizabeth May

GREENS

The Green party finds fault with the current accreditation system. We would eliminate the valuation of foreign credentials for immigration purposes except in those cases where such credentials are recognized in Canada, or a clear, expeditious path to accreditation is established, and in place establish realistic criteria for immigrants based on existing job opportunities. We would also press professional societies to remove unnecessary barriers hindering the recognition of valid professional credentials.

The Green party of Canada's position is that we must adopt a national transit strategy that strengthens our rail network and public transit systems in order to have a competitive, modern economy. We are committed to providing cities with the resources to create public transit systems that reduce congestion. We are also committed to ensuring all of Canada's cities have access to rail connections, and develop high-speed corridors between frequently travelled routes.

We believe the current rise in concern over crime is directly linked with the federal government's fixation on the subject and its $9 billion spent on new prisons. Still, even with the crime rate going down, we would all like to feel safer. We are committed to further reducing crime through better programs in youth activity and early childhood education. We are committed to addressing underlying causes of crime such as poverty, racism, and inequality.

In our 2011 election platform, the Green party announced a slate of initiatives of long-term investments in municipalities and housing. That slate includes a national affordable housing program, a national solar roof program, and energy retrofits for municipal buildings, schools, universities and hospitals, growing to more than $1.6 billion annually by Year 3. An additional $2.4 billion of permanent annual funding has been allocated for six municipal superfunds beginning in the first year.

We believe that cities form a pillar of the green economy. When municipalities set out to build and repair infrastructure, retrofit and rebuild affordable housing, and modernize our aging public transit over decades, it's a decades-long commitment. Their decisions now will decide what kind of an economy we will have for the next 50 years. We hope to work with our cities to lead Canada to a sustainable future.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Gilles Duceppe

BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS

The evaluation and the recognition of credentials is Quebec's and the other provinces' responsibility. Quebec is, to a certain extend, autonomous in terms of immigration. Unfortunately, the actual agreement with the federal government doesn't allow us to put forward all the values that characterize Quebec. The only way Quebec will be able to deploy a more efficient and human politic is by getting a hold of the means sovereign countries can count on, like embassies and consulates.

The Bloc Québécois is in favour of discussions to be held across Canada to put in place a frame, which could allow the adoption of politics that are compatible. However, such discussions should not be used as an excuse by the federal government to interfere in Quebec's jurisdiction and, by doing so, double the politics, double the expenses and complicate the legislation.

Since it came into power, the Conservative government has ... adopted an alarmist rhetoric in regards to criminality. It is true that the fight against crime is important, but we have to remember that crime rates have been going down in Quebec and in Canada for nearly 15 years. The Bloc Québécois suggests concrete and efficient legislative measures to protect vulnerable people, particularly children and victims of human trafficking.

The Bloc Québécois proposed that the investments in infrastructures be modified to take into account the different governments' ability to pay. The federal government would pay for 50 per cent of the expenses, Quebec and the provinces would pay for 35 per cent, while the municipalities would pay for 15 per cent. That reflects the capacity to pay of everyone. The Bloc Québécois asks the federal government to regroup its programs under one unique and unconditional transfer fund.

Large cities have more and more responsibilities. We ask that the federal government participate in the fight against poverty by reinvesting in affordable and safe social housing. We also wish it would support the Quebec government in the development of infrastructures for transit systems, notably by establishing reserved lanes for common transportation and by developing new commuter train lines.

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3 NIGHTS
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FOR TWO
PEOPLE!
Lady Gaga will be Metro's special Global Editor in Chief on May 17th. We are now looking for an assistant to fly to London, England and work with her to create this special Metro Edition! Go to ladygaga.metro.com and let us know "why you were born this way"
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Finding a romantic Scottish hideaway

The perfect date night place for Kate and William

CONTRIBUTED

▶ A visit to The Three Chimneys in the Isle of Skye would be a great place for the Royal couple to visit.

On the shores of Loch Dunvegan in the Isle of Skye sits The Three Chimneys, one of Scotland's most famous restaurants complete with a tiny guesthouse, both incredibly luxe and intimate.

The Three Chimneys has been described as The French Laundry of Scotland, with people from around the world traveling to Chef Michael Smith's kitchen. All food is harvested locally and the menu changes weekly according to ingredients.

Because so many people travel here to dine, six plush guest rooms were opened at The House Over-By, each boasting a breathtaking view of the open sea.

This sweet spot would be the perfect place for the Royal couple to seek pre-party solace and is an absolutely wonderful place to honeymoon.

ALISON MCGILL/ WEDDINGBELLS

Europe in North America

If you can't afford to head across the Atlantic, visiting Quebec City is a good alternative ◗ Find charm and history in one of North America's oldest cities ◗ There are plenty of great B&Bs and fine dining options

STEPHANIE GRAY
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

If the thought of jumping the pond to Europe sounds exciting, yet the price slighting overwhelming, then consider packing your bags and heading to the capital of Quebec. Over 400-years-old and the only walled-in city remaining in North America, Quebec City exudes a character and romance reminiscent of Europe. Find out just how easy it is to have an affordable getaway with a French flair.

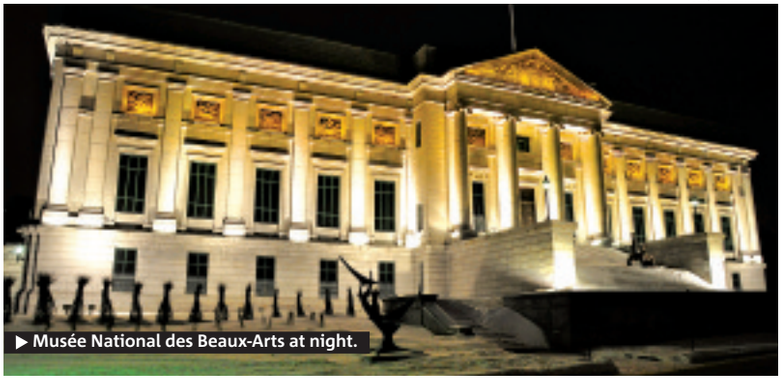
Historical Sites

As one of the oldest cities in North America, this destination is brimming with historic landmarks, the most notable being Old Quebec, a designated UNESCO world heritage site. Other treasures include the Parliament Building, architecturally inspired by the Louvre, the historic urban park of the Plains of Abraham and the fortifications that surround the old city. Plus you'll keep your budget in check, as many of the historic sites are free of charge.

Divine Dining

Follow the lead of the French and dine at a restaurant that focuses on fresh, local ingredients. For a memorable meal try Le Patriarche in Old Quebec with dishes inspired by the province including their signature wild game trilogy and desserts created by their in-house pastry chef. It's a true French dining experience worth the splurge.

FLICKR: ABDALLAHH



▶ Musée National des Beaux-Arts at night.

Sweet Sleeps

From quaint B&B's to the iconic Château Frontenac, it's easy to find accommodations with old-world charm. Perched on a cape overlooking the St. Lawrence River, the Fairmont Le Château Frontenac is a 618-room luxury hotel in Old Quebec offering award-winning cuisine and a full-service spa and health club. Established in 1832 by an Irish settler, Hayden's Wexford House is a quaint bed and breakfast with three Victorian-style bedrooms and run by two gracious and knowledgable hosts.

Fun Freebies

Strolling along Rue St. Paul, climbing the Rue de la Montage and exploring the main collection at the Musée National des Beaux-Arts, you'll find there is much to do in the city without spending a penny. Try a guided tour through the 17th century Notre-Dame de Quebec Basilica-Cathedral or talk a short drive to view the stunning Montmorency Falls, one-and-a-half times higher than Niagara Falls.

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USA

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INCLUDES accom close to theme parks. Departs May 27/ggv/c6. Price is per person based on 4. BONUS complementary shuttle service to theme parks. UPGRADE to 4-star Mona Lisa Suites Hotel for $21 per night.

Boston Air + 2 Nights — $499
Courtyard Boston Tremont Hotel — + taxes & fees $126
INCLUDES Back Bay theatre district accom. Departs Jun 10/ggv/dl. ADD 2-day Go Boston attractions card for $82.

New York Air + 2 Nights — $539
The Roosevelt Hotel — + taxes & fees $117
INCLUDES accom in midtown Manhattan. Departs Aug 5/thn/aa. UPGRADE to 4-star Radisson Lexington for $5 per night.
ADD Empire State building tour for $21.

Phoenix Air + 4 Nights 4-Star — $589
JW Marriott Desert Ridge — + taxes & fees $125
INCLUDES desert mountain luxury accom featuring two golf courses. Departs Jul 7/ggv/dl.
ADD Phoenix & valley area tour for $62.

Europe

Paris
Air + First 2 Nights
$489
Hotel Des Arts — + taxes & fees $434
INCLUDES accom close to the Moulin Rouge. Departs Sep 3/vat/ts. ADD 3-day Rail France Saverpass for $246.

Ireland Air + First 2 Nights 4-Star — $485
Croke Park Hotel — + taxes & fees $385
INCLUDES breakfast and your first 2 nights accom close to the city centre, shopping & entertainment. Departs May 12/vat/ts.

Amsterdam
Air + First 2 Nights 4-Star — $535
Blue Tower Hotel — + taxes & fees $406
INCLUDES your first 2 nights accom close to the city centre, shopping & entertainment. Departs Jul 11/vat/ts.

Greece Island Hopping, 7 Nights — $729
Various Accomodations — taxes and fees included
INCLUDES 3 nights Mykonos, 2 nights Naxos, 2 nights Santorini, daily breakfast, economy hydrofoil tickets between destinations & ground transfers on each island. Departs Jul 7/ggv.

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UPGRADE to the 5-star Bachata for $34 per night.

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Be Live Playa Coco — + taxes & fees $276
Departs Jun 11/nol/c6.

Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star — $445
Mercure Playa de Oro — + taxes & fees $240
Departs Jun 9/swg/wg.

Riviera Maya 7 Nights 4-Star — $575
Viva Wyndham Maya — + taxes & fees $374
Departs Jun 9/swg/wg.

Jamaica 7 Nights 4-Star — $597
Holiday Inn Sunspree — + taxes & fees $340
Departs Jun 11/nol/ts. UPGRADE to the 5-star Riu Montego Bay from $77 per night.

Antigua 7 Nights 3-Star — $980
Grand Pineapple Beach — + taxes & fees $219
Departs Jun 12/acv/ac.

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WAIT, DID I JUST RESIGN?

Workplace Law

DANIEL LUBLIN

IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP.
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TWITTER: @DANLUBLIN

When Jantsje Beggs' mobile home was destroyed by a fire, she did not think this would also cost her her job. Beggs had not been formally terminated, and she assumed she had not resigned either. Her employer assumed otherwise.

Beggs, a grocery store clerk for Westport Foods in Vancouver Island, called her boss the day after the fire explaining that she could not come in as scheduled and did not know when she would return.

Beggs' phone was disconnected, and when her manager could not contact her for almost a month, a record of employment was prepared claiming that Beggs resigned. When Beggs later came by the store to retrieve it and to drop off a doctor's note explaining her absence, she was shocked to learn that Westport viewed her as having resigned.

Instead of speaking with her employer, Beggs hired a lawyer who accused Westport of firing her in an insensitive manner, referring to the medical evidence that the company had not yet been aware of. In response, Westport maintained that Beggs had resigned.

The British Columbia Court of Appeal recently sided with Beggs. It found that before the lawyers were involved, there was a genuine misunderstanding on Westport's part of Beggs' intentions and the reasons for her absence from work. However, when Westport's lawyer maintained that Beggs had quit her job, despite seeing medical evidence showing that she was ill, Westport effectively fired her, ruled the court, even though it had not intended to.

Seldom do sincerity and intentions sway judicial favour in a lawsuit. Often the courts focus on what did, or did not, occur. Here, Beggs found herself in the "twilight zone" somewhere between having abandoned her job and having been fired. Although she won her case, by following these simple steps, the confusion could have been avoided:

- Immediately protest a characterization that there has been a resignation, if you didn't intend to resign.
- Resist taking any steps that can be construed as voluntarily withdrawing from the workplace, as difficult as that may be.

The full article can be read online at metronews.ca

Passionate pupils

Research shows that a non-interactive classroom environment can be especially hard on young learners Make it interesting with these tips

ISTOCK

A sincere desire to engage in learning is key to retaining information for kids.

Students' interest and desire to participate actively in the learning process is central to their success at any level of education. All students are motivated by some activities; in schools, student motivation is deeply affected by what happens in classrooms. Research drawn from several fields suggests ways we can improve students' engagement and motivation.

- Relevance – Building on students' interests and making the lessons relevant to students' lives and what they already know are good practices.
- Choice – Giving students more choices in their learning, both about what to study and about how to present what they know and can do, makes learning more interesting and heightens curiosity.
- Recognizing Effort – Success is a big spur to further effort. Students' motivation increases when their efforts and contributions are consistently valued.
- Feedback – Timely and specific feedback tells students what their strengths and weaknesses are. Feedback must be given so that students understand what they need to do in order to improve. Multiple opportunities to demonstrate learning are also important.
- Teaching Methods and Tools – Students learn best through a variety of teaching techniques that challenge them and encourage them to explore ideas. The use of technology, such as computers, and SMART Boards, can also help to motivate students.

More info

For more information on the research references that inform this issue, visit cea-ace.ca/facts-on-education.

Parents are valuable partners in the learning process. They can support their child's learning by suggesting strategies to teachers that they have observed to be successful at home. This will help teachers meet the child's learning needs.

Teachers and parents support their children's learning when they praise effort and hard work rather than intelligence. There is growing evidence that children's intelligence is not fixed, and the children who do best are those who develop "growth mindsets" so that they are prepared to put in the effort to succeed.

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Raonic advances in Barcelona

JULIAN FINNEY/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Canada's Milos Raonic plays at the ATP Masters Series Tennis at the Monte Carlo Country Club on April 14 in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

Canada's Milos Raonic defeated Czech veteran Radek Stepanek 6-4, 6-2 yesterday for the second time in three months to reach the second round of the Barcelona Open.

The 20-year-old from Thornhill, Ont., will meet Simon Greul next, after the German defeated American Robert Kendrick, 6-4, 6-4.

"The next match will be tough, but I'm playing a lot better than I was when I played him before. I'm adjusting well to the clay and playing my game," said Raonic as he competes in only his second event on clay at the ATP level. "I feel I'm making some progress on the surface.

"I'm moving well, using my shots well and doing what I have to. I'm also playing aggressive at the right time. If I execute well, I feel I have a good chance to win more matches. All of my sensations on court have been good so far this week."

"I was feeling comfortable out there."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Detroit looking to finish off Phoenix

Coyotes spent past two seasons not knowing who their owner would be

The Phoenix Coyotes are back on their heels, the inability to get much of a speed bump in front of the Red Wing Express putting them a game from elimination.

A much bigger issue looms in the back of their minds: Game 4 today at Jobing.com Arena could be their final game in the desert.

The players don't want to talk about the murky ownership situation; they're too focused on trying to take the first step in the monumental climb to get back in the series.

Coach Dave Tippett doesn't want to shy away from the elephant dressed like a coyote in the room, though.

Along with focusing on the usual Xs and Os, he plans to bring up the fact this could be the last game in Arizona, and let his players know this is a chance to show everyone in the Valley of the Sun what they're made of before possibly heading off for good.

"It will be the ultimate test of our mindset and how we're going to deal with it. We talk about using it as a motivating factor ... That's been our mandate from Day 1 and that won't change tomorrow."
PHOENIX COYOTES COACH DAVE TIPPET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Phoenix Coyotes celebrate after David Schlemko scored a goal against the Detroit Red Wings during the 2011 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at Jobing.com Arena on April 18 in Glendale, Ariz.

NHL signs 10-year deal with NBC, Versus

The National Hockey League has opted to stick with NBC and Versus as its U.S. broadcasters in a 10-year deal reportedly worth about $2 billion US.

Neither commissioner Gary Bettman nor NBC Sports chairman Dick Ebersol gave financial terms of the contract, but the Sports Business Journal reported it would bring in about $200 million per season.

$930M The NFL takes in more than $2 billion per year, while the NBA gets about $930 million per season.

Bettman called it "the most significant U.S. media rights partnership in the league's history."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

Canadians earn semifinal bye

SWITZERLAND. The Canadian women's hockey team secured first place in their pool and a bye to Saturday's semifinals in Zurich with a 2-0 win over Finland at the world championship yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

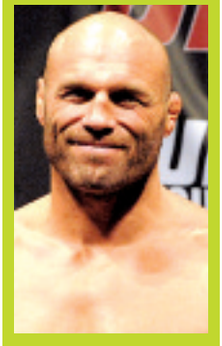
Wimbledon prize increases

TENNIS. The singles champions at Wimbledon this year will each receive 1.1 million pounds ($1.7 million), a 10 per cent increase from last year. The total prize fund for the 125th championships is going up by 6.4 per cent to 14.6 million pounds ($22.7 million).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 sports

Quoted



"I want to go out on my own terms and decide when enough is enough. I think that time has come."
UFC HALL OF FAMER RANDY (THE NATURAL) COUTURE WHO ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT HE WILL RETIRE AFTER FACING LYOTO (THE DRAGON) MACHIDA AT UFC 129 IN TORONTO ON APRIL 30.

Scan code for more sports

5 drive

Engine

While the Aveo's standard 108-horsepower four-cylinder engine typifies those found in this class, the Sonic roars to life with a 135-horsepower 1.8-litre four-cylinder, or optional 138-horsepower turbocharged 1.4-litre four-cylinder. Since both powerplants also see service in the larger and heavier Chevrolet Cruze sedan, you can expect the little Sonic to be a lively performer along with delivering respectable fuel economy.

Interior

Impressive design characteristics are featured in the Sonic's interior, where the dashboard and control panel exude an up-level quality rarely seen in the econo-car class.

An analog tachometer dominates the driver's field of vision, flanked by a rectangular screen displaying a digital speedometer, odometer and fuel gauge. Up-level models will offer two-tone dash and door-panel trim.

Body styling

There's obviously a lot more North American flavour built into the Sonic's design that now features a stubbier-looking nose with a more prominent grille and fancier headlight pods.

In back, the sedan appears somewhat similar to the outgoing Aveo sedan, while the stylish hatchback does a good job at hiding the rear door latches adjacent to the roof pillar. Also, the Sonic features fancy tail lamps that were apparently inspired by motorcycle headlights.

By comparison

Ford Fiesta
Base price: $14,450
All-new sedan and hatchback models are easy on the eyes and easy on gas.

Honda Fit
Base price: $15,900
Class-leading, fun-to-drive wagon features a versatile interior.

Mazda2
Base price: $15,500
Sporty, fuel-sipper looks great. Slick-shifting manual gearbox a real treat.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Scan code for more car reviews and news

▶ From stem to stern, the Sonic is aggressively styled with beady eyeballs, embossed front-fender arches and a plunging beltline. However, the design cues are not that much different than other cars in the class such as the Mazda2 or the Ford Fiesta.

Chevy hoping for Sonic boom

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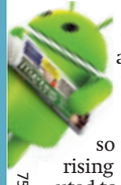
WHEELBASE MEDIA



You might have noticed the sudden flurry of small-car launches announced by many of the world's automakers.

You might have also noticed the steadily rising pump prices attributed to a certain oil-producing-nation's strife.

This volatility is bad news for drivers of big, thirsty vehicles, but it's the perfect storm for General Motors, which will this fall launch the all-new Sonic series of subcompacts.

The Sonic replaces the Korea-built Aveo that has served as the automaker's entry model since the 2004 model year. Like the Aveo, the Sonic will be offered in both sedan and mini-wagon formats.

However, unlike the Aveo, the Sonic will be constructed at GM's Orion, Mich. plant that was recently refitted to the tune of more than $500 million.

The Sonic's late-2011 arrival bolsters Chevy's focus on the svelte end of the passenger-car scale.

Prices will likely begin at about $14,500 (including delivery charges), possibly slightly more for the hatchback version.

That should make for a super-Sonic buy in a class where automakers appear to be spending a lot more care and attention to detail than they were when gas was cheap and bigger was better.

That's good news for buyers who are tired of fuel-price volatility and, up to now, had no real options.

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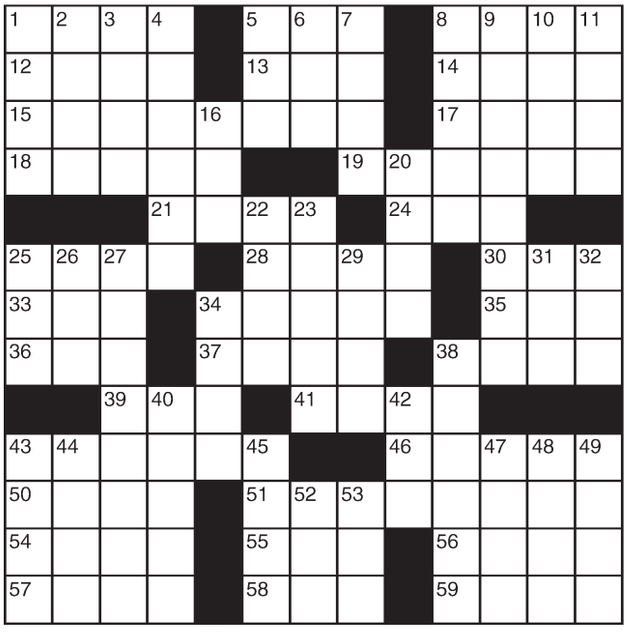
Crossword



Across

1 Postal deliveries
5 Condi-tions
8 H.S. juniors' hurdle
12 — dixit
13 Commo-tion
14 Heche or Hathaway
15 Winter weather occurrence
17 — -tat-tat
18 Old saying
19 Laundry repository
21 8-Across, e.g.
24 Taxi
25 Socialist Eugene
28 Layer
30 Curvy letter
33 Exist
34 Courage
35 "Eureka!"
36 Lingerie item
37 Mimic
38 From the start
39 "Platoon" site, for short
41 Transaction
43 Oft-tapped trees
46 Low operatic voice
50 "American —"
51 Directing principle
54 Red tag event
55 Whatever amount
56 Welles portrayal
57 Portent
58 Golf gizmo
59 Favorable votes

Down

1 Isinglass
2 Two peas in —
3 Actress Fisher
4 Sills
5 Writer Fleming
6 Rx overseer
7 Second-year student
8 Italian city
9 Long-pod veggie
10 Initial chip
11 Rend
16 Gender
20 Farm fraction
22 On
23 Hetero-geneous
25 Light touch
26 Mess up
27 Tall, thin type
29 Hibernia
31 That girl
32 Recent horror film franchise
34 Auntie of Broadway
38 Palin country
40 "Annie Hall" director
42 Honest politician
43 Soybean paste
44 Leading man?
45 Lovers' quarrel
47 Remain
48 Logical
49 Raw rocks
52 Indivisible
53 Caustic solution

▶ Yesterday's answer

P	E	R	M		S	E	E		S	T	U	D		
A	R	E	A		P	A	N		C	A	N	E		
L	A	S	T	W	O	R	D		R	U	D	E		
			T	I	T		O	R	A	T	O	R		
R	A	V	E	N		D	R	A	W					
A	L	A	R		F	A	S	T	L	A	N	E		
S	I	N		S	A	F	E	S		G	O	V		
P	A	S	T	L	I	F	E		R	A	G	E		
			H	U	E	Y		A	A	R	O	N		
A	S	S	I	G	N		E	N	D					
F	E	A	R		C	A	S	T	I	R	O	N		
R	E	N	T		E	S	P		A	U	T	O		
O	R	G	Y		S	K	Y		L	E	T	S		

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today's horoscope

♈ **Aries** March 21-April 20 You may be tempted to go on a spree but you should keep your wallet in your pocket.

♉ **Taurus** April 21-May 21 Start looking ahead to all the glorious things coming your way.

♊ **Gemini** May 22-June 21 Look for the good in what other people do, and praise them for it at every chance.

♋ **Cancer** June 22-July 22 You've been too caught up in your work of late. It's time to take a less demanding path.

♌ **Leo** July 23-Aug.23 An issue that has been causing you pain can easily be dealt with today.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Get away from your usual environment. Do something different and exciting.

♎ **Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Family and friends will do whatever they can to help you out of a tricky situation today.

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Relationship misunderstandings are a fact of life. It is how you deal with them that matters.

♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 If someone makes you an offer that requires a lot of effort, turn it down. You'll survive.

♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20 What's your number one dream? Make it your priority.

♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you want to persuade people, you will need to appeal to them on an emotional level.

♓ **Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20. If you're holding back from letting others know what you believe, stop it. SALLY BROMPTON

Sudoku

	3				8			
6			3	9		8	1	
4		8					5	
	5	9		2				
			5		7			
				8		2	7	
	7					5		9
	8	6		1	5			4
			2				3	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

1	9	6	2	7	4	8	3	5
5	8	2	9	3	1	6	7	4
7	4	3	5	6	8	9	2	1
4	6	1	3	8	2	7	5	9
2	3	5	7	9	6	4	1	8
9	7	8	1	4	5	2	6	3
3	5	4	6	2	9	1	8	7
8	2	7	4	1	3	5	9	6
6	1	9	8	5	7	3	4	2

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

V.Q.
yeobo~ you're the most amazing, beautiful, wonderful person i ever met ~ looking forward to our upcoming day together :D p.s. i love you :) <3
A.N.

mavis
*boo mavis... wanna send this to you and muwah & hugs.. have fun ok! *winks**
FROM ROMAN

DriverBoy
Whether we are laughing and giggling at home, or smirking through text... You are always my # 1 best friend and I'll love you forever :) **FROM INFINITY56**

Caption contest

MARK DUNCAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VADIM GHIRDA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

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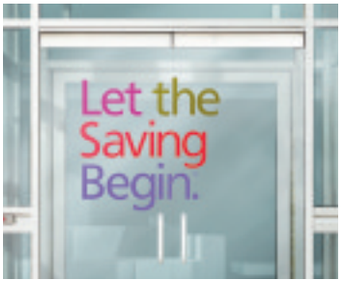

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